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DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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U. S. STATE DEPT WAS SO RIGHT (in 1945)

The US State Department is not always wrong. This is shown by a clear-sighted statement on the danger of re-nazification in Germany, issued on March 30th.

To prevent any confusion, GERMAN REPORT wishes to stress that the date was March 30th **1945.** Here are the main points from the statement:

"Reliable information collected by Allied Governments clearly indicates that the Nazi regime in Germany has developed well arranged post-war plans for the perpetuation of Nazi doctrines and domination. Some of these plans have already been put into operation and others are ready to be launched on a wide-spread scale immediately upon termination of hostilities in Europe.

Nazi party members, German industrialists, and the German military, realising that victory can no longer be attained, are now developing post-war commercial projects, endeavouring to renew and cement friendships in foreign commercial circles, and planning for renewals of pre-war cartel agreements. ... German technicians, cultural experts, and undercover agents have well-laid plans to infiltrate into foreign countries with the object of developing economic, cultural, and political ties. German technicians and scientific research experts will be made available at low cost to industrial firms and technical schools in foreign countries. German capital and plans for the construction of ultra-modern technical schools and research laboratories will be offered at extremely favourable terms since they will afford the Germans an excellent opportunity to design and perfect new weapons. This government is now in possession of photostatic copies of several volumes of German plans on this subject. The German propaganda programme is to be an integral part of the over-all post-war programme. The immediate aim of the propaganda programme will be directed at removing Allied control measures by 'softening up' the Allies through a subtle plea for 'fair treatment' of Germans, and later the programme will be expanded and intensified with the object of giving rebirth to Nazi doctrines and furthering German ambitions for world domination. Unless these plans are checked they will present a constant menace to post-war peace and security."

* * *

Another even older warning was disclosed for the first time on April 4th in a collection of "Documents on British Foreign Policy" published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office in London. In February 1920, Lord Kilmarnock, British Chargé d' Affaires in Berlin reported to the British Foreign Office:

„The Germans, with their strong sense of nationality and order, may weld themselves into a nation which may again prove formidable to the world. It is more than doubtful they have learned the lessons which the war should have inculcated ... It is by no means improbable that a strong government may be established which, even though democratic in form, will be autocratic in essentials ... There are woefully few signs that such a new Germany would show a regenerate spirit."

The Guarantee That Isn't

By the Editor

On October 23rd, 1954, a complicated series of agreements were signed in Paris permitting the rearmament of West Germany.

Opponents of West German remilitarisation in the British Parliament and in other countries were fobbed off with the argument that West Germany had given an undertaking not to manufacture atomic, biological or chemical weapons and a group of other weapons including guided missiles, warships above a certain tonnage, and bombers. This undertaking was reinforced by the following pledge: "The Federal Republic agrees to supervision by the competent authority of the Brussels Treaty Organisation to ensure that these undertakings are observed".

Today, less than six years later, it has become clear that this alleged guarantee is worthless, for the reasons given below:

1. The West German undertaking with regard to atomic, biological and chemical weapons applies only to West German territory. There is nothing to prevent Hitler's generals from developing these weapons in other countries.

2. The pledge with regard to missiles, warships and bombers can be amended at any time by the Council of Western European Union. It has already been amended so that West Germany is now permitted to make heavy rockets of the "Hawk" and

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"Sidewinder" types. The West German Government has submitted an application to the WEU council to build submarines and other types of rockets.

3. The West German pledge to submit to supervision of the undertakings by the "competent authority of the Brussels Treaty Organisation" has never been put into effect, and in fact this clause has been intentionally sabotaged by the West German authorities.

This is a serious charge. Let us look at the facts. The agreements signed in Paris established, in Protocol No. IV, an Agency for the Control of Armaments. The main task of this Agency was defined as being: "To satisfy itself that the undertakings . . . not to manufacture certain types of armament are being observed". For this purpose the Agency was given the right to make test checks, at irregular intervals, at "production plants, depots and forces". Article 12 of the Protocol specified: "For their test checks, visits and inspections the members of the Agency shall be accorded free access on demand to plants and depots, and the relevant accounts and documents shall be made available to them."

On paper it would appear as if the Agency for the Control of Armaments were in a good position to check whether West Germany was evading the bans on certain types of armaments. In reality, this Agency has never been able to make uninvited visits to West German factories or arms depots, since the West German authorities have refused to take the necessary legislative steps permitting such inspections.

For three years, from October 1954 until December 1957, the West German authorities managed to delay implementation of the arms inspection paragraphs by arguing that the treaty partners would have to sign a special convention indemnifying private firms which might suffer damage from such inspections. Such a convention was finally concluded on December 14th 1957. More than two years have passed since this date, but West Germany has not yet ratified the convention, so it can not come into effect. The West German news magazine "Spiegel" described on April 6th how this run-around was organised:

"The Federal Government explains that its slowness in the matter of arms control is due to technical legal difficulties. The Defence Ministry states that the Ministry of Justice has been slow; the Ministry of Justice says that the affair is held up in the Foreign Ministry; the Foreign Ministry says that the Ministry of Economics is responsible."

Put quite concisely: There is nothing today to prevent the West German authorities from manufacturing any types of arms they want to, including H-bombs. The "guarantees" supposedly provided by the agreements of October 1954 are an empty farce.

Jobs For the Heusinger Boys

Two of the key posts in West Germany are today held by members of the Heusinger family, both of whom served Hitler faithfully during the nazi period.

Heusinger No. 1 is General Adolf Heusinger, Inspector General of the West German Wehrmacht. From 1940 to 1944 Adolf Heusinger was Chief of Operations on Hitler's General Staff, and in this capacity made the military plans for the German attacks on Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, France, the Soviet Union and other countries.

Heusinger No. 2 is his brother Bruno Heusinger, who was appointed on March 31st 1960 to the post of President of the West German Federal Court, the supreme judicial post in West Germany. During the first six years of the Hitler period he served the nazi state as President of the Upper Provincial Court in Brunswick, and during the war he served in the Wehrmacht.

OBERLAENDER ON TRIAL

The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic will try West German Minister Theodor Oberlaender on war crimes charges, on April 20th, it was officially announced in East Berlin on April 2nd.

The accused was publicly summoned to appear before the court to answer the charges, but it was expected that Minister Oberlaender would refuse to comply with the summons, and that he would therefore have to be tried in absentia.

The Supreme Court claimed the right to open proceedings against Oberlaender since his official residence during a large part of the nazi period was at Greifswald, which lies today in the German Democratic Republic; since some of the alleged crimes were committed on the territory of the German Democratic Republic; and since the West German legal authorities have failed to take any action against him, although overwhelming prima facie evidence of his crimes is available.

The specific crimes charged against Oberlaender are:

1. That as a leading nazi party official, "Reich Fuehrer" of the League of Germans in the East, and official of the nazi counter-intelligence, he played a leading part in the "integration" into Germany of the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia, and in the preparations for aggressive war against Poland and Czechoslovakia.

2. That as commander of quisling units of the nazi Wehrmacht he participated in the campaign of liquidation, particularly in Poland and the Soviet Union; that he incited to mass murder, and was an accessory to mass murder.

Separate Peace Treaty with GDR?

If the Summit Conference does not bring agreement on the conclusion of a peace treaty with the whole of Germany, the Soviet Union would sign a separate peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic, Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov stated at a press conference in Paris on April 2nd.

"The conclusion of such a peace treaty would mean that the GDR would then have complete and unlimited sovereignty over its entire territory", Khrushchov stated. "The capitulation agreement on the stationing of troops in West Berlin would then become invalid, and these garrisons would lose their rights in West Berlin."

In reply to a question about the status of a West Berlin Free City, the formation of which was proposed by the Soviet Union in November 1958, Khrushchov stated: "The Soviet Union would be ready to participate in all international guarantees of the status of a West Berlin Free City. Such an international guarantee would protect the economic links between West Berlin and West Germany, and would lay down that no power had the right to interfere in the internal affairs of West Berlin."

You Ask – We Answer

Is W. Berlin Part of W. Germany?

"You say that West Berlin lies on the territory of the German Democratic Republic: the West German Government treats it as if it was a part of West Germany. What is the real position?"

D. G., London

The whole division of Germany into two states is based upon various agreements reached by the allies in 1944 and 1945 on the various occupation zones in Germany. West Germany, the German Federal Republic, consists of those areas which were allocated by inter-allied agreement to Britain, France and the USA, and East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, consists of that part allocated to the Soviet Union.

These various agreements were summarised in a Four Power Declaration, signed by the four Commanders in occupied Berlin on June 5th 1945, which stated:

"Germany ... will for the purposes of occupation, be divided into four zones, one to be allotted to each power ... The area of Greater Berlin will be occupied by forces of each of the Four Powers. An Inter-Allied governing authority will be established to direct jointly its administration."

A joint statement on the machinery of control, issued on the same date in Berlin, stated:

"... supreme authority in Germany will be exercised by the British, United States, Soviet and French Commanders-in-Chief, each in his own zone of occupation ... The administration of the Greater Berlin area will be directed by an Inter-Allied governing authority ...

It should be noted that both these statements make a clear distinction between the various zones, in each of which the relevant commander had supreme authority, and Berlin, for which only administrative arrangements were made. No attempt was made by the western allies in 1945 to claim supreme authority in West Berlin, and tacit recognition was given to the fact that Berlin lay in the centre of what was then the Soviet Zone: the Soviet authorities administered the railways and waterways throughout the whole of Berlin, East and West, and with the creation of the German Democratic Republic in 1949 this right of administration passed to the Democratic Republic, which continues to administer these means of communication to this day throughout the whole of Berlin.

There are no agreements of any sort, dating from 1945 or later, giving Berlin as a whole, or West Berlin, the status of a "fifth occupation zone".

The aim of these agreements in 1944 and 1945 was to make Berlin a centre for the inter-allied administration of the whole of Germany, and later as the seat for the "central German administrative departments" foreseen by the Potsdam Agreement. which should have developed into the government of a unified German state.

Owing to the western breach of the spirit and the letter of the Potsdam Agreement, however, Germany was partitioned in September 1949 by the formation of the West German state, and the formation one month later of the German Democratic Republic. This left West Berlin in the anomalous position which it occupies today: an area using the West German currency and applying most West German laws, which is entirely surrounded by the German Democratic Republic, and which lies more than 100 miles away from the nearest part of West German territory.

It is extremely important to note that the western powers have never recognised West Berlin as a part of the West German Federal Republic, and have specifically objected to its inclusion.

When the preparations for the formation of the West German state were in full swing in spring 1949, the western allies sent a message to the West German Parliamentary Council on April 22nd stating:

"The Foreign Ministers are not able to agree at this time that Berlin should be included as a 'Land' in the initial organisation of the German Federal Republic."

A special clause, Article 144 (2), was written into the West German Constitution in accordance with this western allied instruction, implicitly recognising that West Berlin did not form part of the West German state: the clause was so formulated that it could only be understood by somebody with access to the western allied objection of April 22nd, quoted above, and a further note sent by the western military governors on May 12th. This western note stated:

"We interpret Articles 23 and 144 (2) of the Basic Law as meaning ... that Berlin is not ruled by Federal Germany ..."

The western allies repeated their objections to attempts to incorporate West Berlin into the West German state one year later, when West Berlin promulgated its constitution.

On August 29th 1950 the western commandants in Berlin informed the West Berlin authorities of the indefinite suspension of Articles I (2) and I (3) of the West Berlin Constitution, which had stated:

"Berlin is a 'Land' of the German Federal Republic. The Basic Law and the laws of the German Federal Republic are binding upon Berlin."

Since that date there has been no change in the legal or constitutional situation. It is thus shown clearly that West Berlin is not today, and never has been, a part of the West German state.

Geographically, as a glance at a map will show, it lies in the heart of the German Democratic Republic, and there would be a strong legal case for its incorporation in the Democratic Republic, following the complete abandonment by the western powers of the principles of the Potsdam Agreement, since only the implementation of this agreement gives them any real claim to maintain the occupation regime in West Berlin.

However, the Government of the German Democratic Republic, in full agreement with the Government of the Soviet Union, takes a realistic view of the situation: it is an undeniable fact that in the past ten or twelve years the social and economic system in West Berlin has developed in quite a different direction from that in Democratic Germany. Incorporation of West Berlin in Democratic Germany would lead to all sorts of internal and external tensions: but at the same time the perpetuation of the present state of affairs bedevils relations between the two German states, and international relations as a whole.

For this reason the Governments of Democratic Germany and the Soviet Union have proposed that West Berlin should be converted into a demilitarised Free City, guaranteed by the powers and the United Nations. This proposal, which will be on the agenda again at the Summit Conference in Paris in May, would guarantee West Berliners the right to the social system of their choice, and would at the same time do away with one of the main sources of international tension in Europe.

FOREIGN STUDENTS WITH TROUBLES

Afro-Asians Criticise West German Treatment

In the past few years, West Germany has been able to attract a large number of foreign students, especially from Asia and Africa. The number rose from 4479 in 1953 to an estimated 21,000 in the current year. West Germany should encourage this trend, the West German "Koelnische Rundschau" of Cologne urged on September 6th, 1959:

"The foreign students are also of inestimable value from the economic point of view. They represent for us at least as valuable and safe an investment of capital as the investment credits and development aids offered to the newly developing countries ...

"The foreigners studying in Germany today will hold key positions in their home countries and in the case of Africans and Asians, they will take over the leadership of their countries in the not too distant future."

Despite these hoped-for advantages for West Germany, the foreign students do not have such an easy time from the economic point of view. Only 6.1 % of the 16,000 foreign students in 1957/58 received stipends, and these were only granted on a yearly basis. The West German youth magazine "Klarer Kurs" (No. 12, 1958) reported on some of the results of this system:

"Many foreigners, especially those from Asia and Africa, have to return home before finishing their studies in Germany, and there are no opportunities to continue their studies in their home countries. The confusion is made even worse because the numerous foreign representatives of the Federal Republic are completely ignorant of these stipend difficulties and keep trying to persuade as many foreigners as possible to study in the Federal Republic."

There are at least two exceptions to this policy of recruiting students everywhere, however. "Vorwaerts", official Social Democratic weekly, reported on December 12th 1958 that only "South Africans of European origin" were offered financial support for their studies.

The other exception relates to students from Algeria. The "Tagesspiegel" in West Berlin reported on August 30th 1958: "The Foreign Office has always refused stipends to Algerians with the explanation that the Federal Republic must take French feelings into account."

"Das Freie Wort", Bonn, stated on September 5th 1959: "A delegation of Algerian students who are living in exile in Europe spoke with bitterness during a recent visit to Bonn about the cold attitude of the officials of the Federal Republic towards the young Algerian refugees. The spokesman of the Algerian student organisation (Ugema) referred again and again to the great disproportion between stipends offered by West Germany and the free study possibilities offered by the GDR: 'Six Algerians receive stipends in the colleges of the Federal Republic, and 120 study in the GDR.'"

The "Deutsche Volkszeitung", Dusseldorf, reported on June 20th 1959 about the position of coloured students from Asia and Africa:

"... Even when they are still formally accorded equal rights in the lecture rooms, institutes and seminars, they are treated like exotic animals and are regarded with very cold indifference if not with aggressive rejection. This childish amazement is the more harmless form of rejection. There are more and more cases where Negroes are refused admission to a hotel or are not even permitted to enter a restaurant or bar (frequently with the remark: 'What would our white American guests think of us!')"

But discrimination often reaches into the schools and universities too. A student from India was quoted by the West German "Frankfurter Rundschau" on September 18th 1957:

"... 'The student clubs and fraternities at the colleges ... proved to be so hermetically sealed that it was impossible for foreigners to enter them.' The teaching staff were also unapproachable: 'They act very distantly towards the students, there is no chance of human contacts with them'."

This attitude affects study, too. The "Koelnische Rundschau" reported on September 6th 1959:

"... When medical student Samuel Kwesi Dadze-Arthur from Ghana in Africa was about to observe a birth together with his fellow-students at the Women's Clinic of the Free University in (West) Berlin last December, Professor von Radecki, the Clinic Director, told him that coloured students could under no circumstances be present at the confinement of a white woman."

"Der Tag" of West Berlin reported from Munich on March 6th 1959:

"... The black students are especially embittered that they are not allowed to enter many Munich pubs and cafés, often with the brutal explanation 'We do not want Negroes here'. Cases are even reported where the police have pushed them out without any apparent reason. Recently a young man from Cameroun, a medical student, who wanted to visit a ball which had been arranged especially for medical students in a cellar nightspot ... was beaten so badly by employees on the orders of the owner that he had to be taken to hospital."

It is especially difficult for students from Asia or Africa to find lodgings. "By means of experiments which came near to being self-torture, coloured students have found definitely that their difficulties in finding a room have no connection with the general housing problem: 'I visited landladies who had advertised that they had rooms free,' I was told by Lincoln M., a student from Ghana, who is studying medicine here. 'They told me that the room was already taken. Half an hour later a German student followed me. For him the room was still available ...'"

("Welt der Arbeit", Cologne, May 15th 1959)

When the foreign students do get a room, their troubles are by no means over. The "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" reported on January 1st 1959:

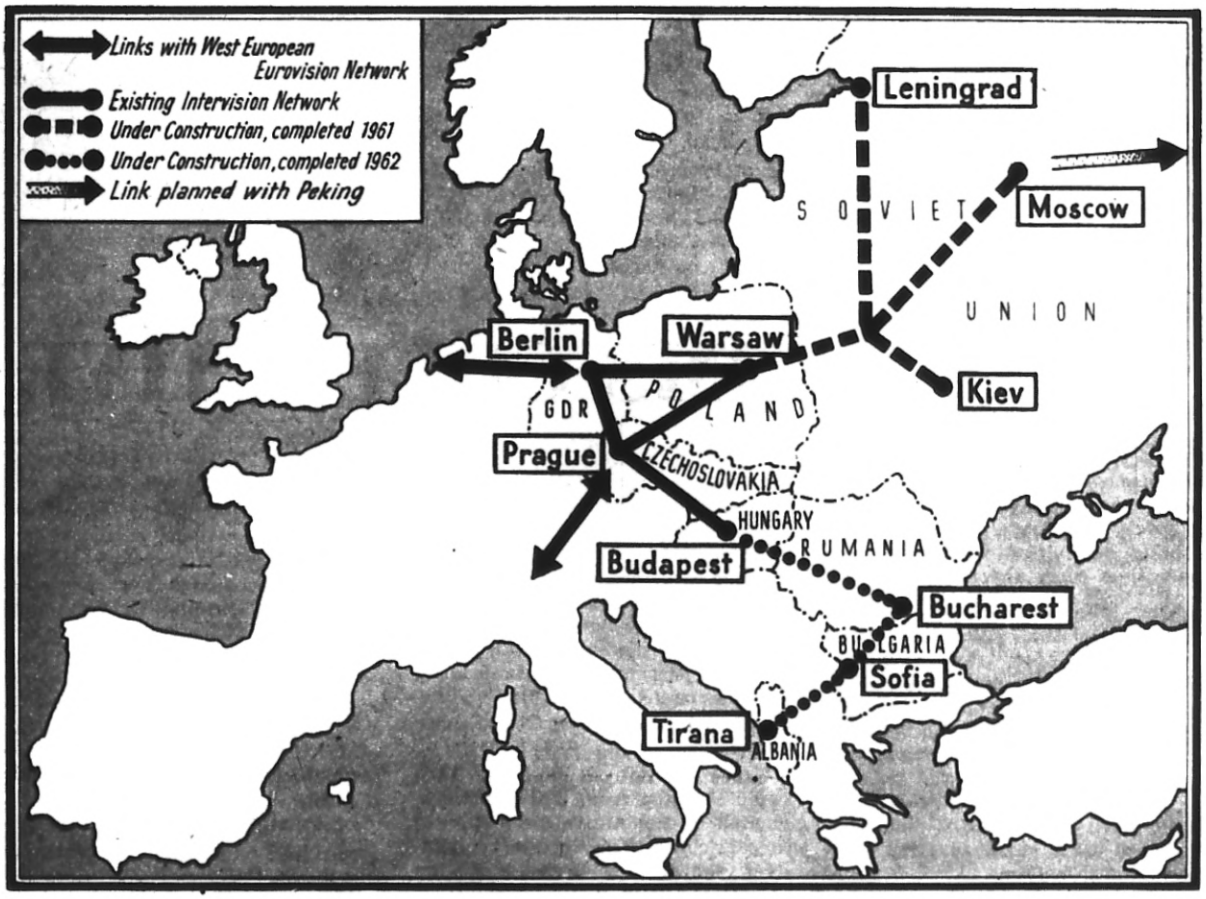
"A Siamese student had to flee his lodgings because his landlady was always thinking up new ways of making trouble for the 'wild man'. Two dark-skinned Iraqi students were forbidden by the landlord to use any lights after 9:00 p.m., to use the bathroom or ever to receive guests."

These difficulties were also mentioned in the "Deutsche Zeitung und Wirtschaftszeitung", Stuttgart, on October 25th 1958:

"... Students with dark skins have a difficult time acclimatising themselves here and often even greater difficulties finding a room. The owners often refuse to rent to foreign students of another race or demand double the price which German students pay. 250 to 400 marks (£ 21 to £ 33) monthly rent for a simple furnished room are no exception."

(A report on conditions of foreign students in the GDR will appear in a future issue)

INTERVISION – NEW TV NET



By next year, it will be technically possible for viewers in Britain to watch live transmissions from the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, and for Soviet viewers to see the Boat Race on the Thames.

The map above shows the existing international TV network in eastern Europe, and the extensions planned for 1961 and 1962. At present the Intervision network, founded in January 1960, links the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, with a relay net about 2000 miles long. Work is already in hand to plug in to the Soviet TV system next year, and the young TV networks in Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania in 1962. No firm date has yet been set for the extension of the link across the whole length of Asia to Vladivostock and then down to Peking.

Intervision has already established a working agreement with Eurovision, the West European TV net, and some programme exchanges have already been planned. At the end of March, for instance, the West German TV system provided relay facilities so that Intervision was able to provide its viewers with live coverage from France of the visit paid by Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov. Programme exchanges between the TV services in East and West Germany, so far entirely confined to sports events, began as long ago as 1956.

Because of language difficulties, it is expected that Intervision programmes will largely consist of items which depend mainly upon the picture and not the spoken word, such as opera and ballet, and sports events for which separate commentaries can be provided in the relevant languages. A play in Czech would obviously be of only marginal interest to GDR viewers, and a quiz in German would not find much interest in Poland.

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Many readers of GERMAN REPORT have asked for information about the programmes provided by the GDR TV service for viewers in Democratic Germany. Programmes start every morning at 11 with recorded repeats of popular programmes for shift workers unable to view in the peak evening hours, and continue in the early afternoon with a feature film.

The programme proper starts at 4 p. m. with a children's hour consisting of puppet plays, hobby corner, and so on. Just before 7 p. m. the children's department goes on the air again every day with a five-minute "pack-them-off-to-bed" programme which parents report to be one of the most useful services provided by TV. Cops and robbers, cowboys, and mad scientists are strictly excluded from all children's programmes, which reach a high standard without being stuffy.

Main programme time begins at 7.45 p. m. with the news, and at 8 p. m. comes the main evening item, generally a play, film, variety show, or documentary, often popular science.

Here, to give practical examples of the sort of programme transmitted,

are the high-lights of the programme for the week April 3rd to April 9th:

Sunday

10 a. m. "Friends", a Soviet children's film. **1 p. m.** Weekly farmers' programme. **1.30 p. m.** Ski jumping. **8. p. m.** "Budapest People", a play about contemporary Hungary. **9.45 p. m.** Quiz.

Monday

4 p. m. "The Tinder Box", GDR children's film. **6.30 p. m.** Shoppers' Guide. **8. p. m.** "After the Opera", Austrian film. **9.55 p. m.** Popular Science programme.

Tuesday

4 p. m. Children's programme for 10-year-olds. **6.15 p. m.** "Solving Production Problems", programme for industrial workers. **8 p. m.** "What Would Happen If . . .?" direct transmission from Dresden State Theatre of a contemporary German play.

Wednesday

3 p. m. Pre-Olympic football match from Brno, Czechoslovakia.

5 p. m. Programme for four-year-olds. **7 p. m.** "Berlin Forum", round-table political discussion. **9 p. m.** "The Twelfth Victim", a play about West German militarism.

Thursday

4 p. m. Programme for 12-year-olds. **5.15 p. m.** Special programme for teachers. **7 p. m.** Farmers' programme. **8 p. m.** "The Spanish Hour", musical comedy with music by Maurice Ravel.

Friday

5 p. m. Paul Robeson sings. **8 p. m.** "It Happened in Trieste", Soviet anti-nazi film.

Saturday

4 p. m. Football. **5.45 p. m.** Fairy Tale programme. **6.20 p. m.** Satirical GDR film. **7 p. m.** Zoo programme. **8 p. m.** Variety.

MOST FARMS COLLECTIVE

Ten of Democratic Germany's 14 counties were fully collectivised when this issue of GERMAN REPORT went to press and further farmers were joining agricultural production co-operatives every day.

The four counties of Rostock, Neubrandenburg, Potsdam and Frankfurt (Oder) had reported 100 % membership in the collectives earlier in March; they were followed in late March and early April by the counties of Leipzig, Magdeburg, Schwerin, Gera, Erfurt and Cottbus. Farmers tilling about 90% of all arable soil in the GDR had thus switched from small to large scale agricultural methods.

This change-over meant a sudden and dramatic increase in the demand for everything from agricultural machines to veterinarians. A first wave of students, teachers, bookkeepers, mechanics and even artists and writers moved to the countryside for shorter or longer periods to help the new collective farms get on their feet.

In order to find long-range solutions to many of the new problems in the villages, the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party invited nearly 500 farm leaders and agricultural experts to a special meeting lasting from March 30th till April 2nd.

In a 50,000 word speech to the Central Committee, Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary, summarised the situation in agriculture today. Here are some of the main points he made in his speech.

We can say today that in the German Democratic Republic the peasants have finally been freed from all forms of capitalist exploitation. Now that the villages are fully co-operative, all sources for the revival of capitalist exploitation have been abolished. There are no longer any hostile class relations in the GDR. Our people's democratic state is in the hands of the working class in alliance with the peasants, the intelligentsia, and the other working sections of the population. The peasant class, which in capitalist Germany was a class exploited by capitalism, has risen to the class of co-operative peasant. The peasants today have a status of equality in the leadership of our worker's and peasants' state.

The fact that all peasants have taken the step from individual production to cooperative production in the agricultural production cooperatives shows they understand that this is the only way in which the backwardness in the village can be overcome. Only a socialist form of economy can ensure a steady rise in the material and cultural standard of living of the people . . .

Here is an example: Herr Mette, a middle peasant, has reported how small-holders in his village of Jesewitz travelled in summer 1959 to Graefenhainichen, to study the way in which peasants there were coming together to form agricultural cooperatives which covered the whole village. They saw what a great step forwards this was, and founded by themselves a production cooperative, much to the astonishment of the village mayor, who had been away on holiday. Very soon the whole village was cooperatively organised.

This initiative taken by the peasants of Jesewitz showed the local authorities that there had been a great development in the thinking of the peasants, and steps were taken to help the peasants in all the local villages to form cooperatives. The idea of socialist transformation in the villages had taken such a hold in the villages that within a very short period all the peasants of the district had formed cooperatives. In this way the Eilenburg district became the first 100 % cooperative district in the GDR.

At that time some people thought that the developments in Eilenburg had been an exception . . . but recent events have shown that the peasants themselves in most districts had reached the conclusion that the big leap forward in production and in life in the villages could only be achieved by the 100 % cooperative organisation of the villages and districts.

The peasant cooperators who started in 1952 with the difficult job of turning their cooperatives into going concerns did a pioneering task which deserves recognition. Their efforts proved the superiority of the large-scale cooperative farm, and thus convinced the middle peasants.

Now the time has come for the rapid spread of cooperative farming, for the following reasons:

1. Cooperative field work with the help of the tractor stations has proved its value. In the 100 % cooperative villages the agricultural machinery can now be turned over, step by step, to the cooperatives.

2. The cooperatives have been able to apply the latest technical and scientific methods on their large fields, and achieve a higher rate of labour productivity than the small farms. It has been proved that the cooperative farms lead to a better life for all peasants.

3. The peasants themselves have recognised the limits imposed by their private farms. They want to participate in the big socialist leap forwards.

4. The peasants want to ensure a happy future for their children. This is only possible under socialism.

5. The preparations for atomic war, and the "squeezing out" of the small peasants in West Germany have convinced the peasants in the GDR that it is necessary to strengthen the workers' and peasants' state in the GDR, and to prove the superiority of the socialist system, in order to make peace secure and to take steps towards the creation of a united, peace-loving and democratic Germany.

In a discussion in the village of Stove about the movement to create 100 % cooperative villages, one of the peasants said: "I often thought about the subject, heard about the cooperatives in the radio and at meetings. Slowly I began to consider whether I should join a cooperative. Finally one day an inner voice said: 'These cooperatives are going to get somewhere: see how they are going ahead. One day you will change your mind about them, just as you did about the tractor stations'."

The new way of thinking has not simply affected the peasants. In many villages the pastors have taken a leading part, from a sense of Christian responsibility, in the movement towards a socialist future. In the county of Cottbus ten pastors issued an appeal stating: "Peasants! In your responsibility to God you should consider how you can best serve human society in a changing world. God has charged you with the task of providing the daily bread for your neighbours. Our times demand that all hands in the village should work together, on the cooperative system ... He acts as a Christian who strides confidently along the path from egoism to work for the community."

* * *

In the further course of his speech Deputy Prime Minister Ulbricht pointed out that the fact that most peasants had now joined cooperatives was only the first step. The aim now must be to organise socialist agriculture so successfully that within the shortest possible period the socialist countries would enjoy a superfluity of foodstuffs. Hard work would mean that this goal could be reached by 1965, Walter Ulbricht stated.

No Germanium to Germany

"No more Germanium imports", is the goal set by joint production teams in a lead smelting plant in the German Democratic Republic. They hope to triple the production of germanium, making imports of the valuable metal superfluous and saving foreign currency for other purposes. Germanium is needed in making certain machine parts and in several branches of the radio and electronics industries.

WAR CRIMINALS WILL CELEBRATE

by Bill Rogers

The date of May 8th this year will be celebrated in both parts of Germany — but for very different reasons and in a very different manner.

In the German Democratic Republic, May 8th is celebrated as Liberation Day — the day when allied troops freed Germany and all of Europe from the nazis and their destruction, terror and mass murder concentration camps. Since this year is the 15th anniversary of that event, the celebrations, memorial meetings and the like will be more numerous than ever.

But in West Germany there have never been celebrations on this date, nor is it a public holiday as in Democratic Germany. Instead, it is generally marked by articles and speeches which tried to analyse the reasons why Germany lost the war.

This year, however, a certain part of the population will be happy on that date, and will probably consume well over the usual amount of wine, schnapps and champagne.

The reason is that the German criminal code contains a statute of limitations — a law which dates back to 1871. This statute, like similar laws in most other countries, provides that after a certain period of years it is no longer possible to open proceedings against a person suspected of committing a crime. This rule is designed to protect people from trials based on evidence and witnesses' memories which are dimmed by the passage of the years and hence unreliable.

The German statute of limitations provides that after fifteen years manslaughter can no longer be prosecuted, and after twenty years even a murderer can forget his worries and stop hiding from the police.

This old law has suddenly become very important. Almost all crimes committed by the nazis during the Hitler regime have been prosecuted not as murder, or genocide, but as manslaughter in West Germany. And court rulings have also determined that May 8th 1945, the end of the war, is the beginning date for this statute of limitations in regard to all nazi crimes.

That means, of course, that no more cases of manslaughter could be prosecuted after the 15-year statute of limitations period runs out on May 8th 1960. Which explains why champagne consumption will increase on that day in the homes of all those who murdered Jews, anti-fascists, Poles, Russians, hostages or prisoners-of-war, whether they did it with a revolver or a gas chamber.

This also means that even if Adolf Hitler himself were to show up in Bonn on May 9th, the police would probably have no power to arrest him, even if they wanted to; since many of the police chiefs are themselves old SS officers, however, they would also be celebrating, and would be much more likely to help their old boss to a pension such as other top nazis of retirement age are receiving.

Hitler can hardly put in an appearance anymore; one large group of oldtimers will be there, however, and these are the main people who stand to gain if the statute of limitations comes into force. More than 1000 judges who served in Hitler's special courts, "people's courts" and military courts are not only free in West Germany and West Berlin today, but are back on the bench again as judges or acting as official government public prosecutors.

These are the men who handed down the terror sentences — who sentenced Poles to death for hiding a Jewish child fleeing liquidation in the ghetto or for giving a cigarette to an escaped British prisoner of war. There can also be no question of dimmed memories in such cases — their decisions are all there to be examined, with details, swastika seals and signatures.

They are there to be examined, that is, if the West German authorities want to examine them; but up till now, they have found one excuse after another for not wanting to see them. They often pointed out that the nazi files were found in the east of Germany, and what is in the east cannot be believed. In a very few cases, they have been forced by public opinion in West Germany or abroad to pension off a handful of nazi judges; other cases are being "investigated".

But in almost all the cases, nothing has been done, and now the deadline is approaching. The delaying tactics will pay off on May 8th for the thousand judges and all the others who have ducked under or kept out of the limelight till now.

There are some attempts in West Germany to prolong this deadline, basing it on September 1949 instead of May 1945, since there was no way of prosecuting war criminals in German courts till then. Only rapid, massive protests from all countries will be able to lift the deadline and help bring some of the worst war criminals to justice. But only a few days remain!

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

We are glad to take note of a backhanded compliment from the "Deutsche Zeitung", a very reactionary West German daily newspaper. Commenting on March 29th on the fact that public opinion in Britain is not exactly friendly to Chancellor Adenauer and his politics, the "Deutsche Zeitung" was kind enough to lay some of the blame on GERMAN REPORT. For the record, here is what this West German newspaper said: "The anaemic and bureaucratic English-language 'Bulletin' published in Bonn cannot compete with the Democratic German Report from East Berlin, which is cleverly filled with half-truths."

After searching the past few copies of GERMAN REPORT for these "half-truths" I have written to the editor of the "Deutsche Zeitung" asking for elucidation. GERMAN REPORT has repeatedly stated that well over 1000 former nazi judges are back on the bench in West Germany. Is this only half the truth? Are there in fact well over 2000? I await the answer with the greatest interest.

"Self-Styled"

Flora Lewis, the rather alarmingly competent American journalist, recently toured Democratic Germany, and wrote an article on her impressions which appeared in the "New York Times" magazine section on March 20th. She did her best to present things as she saw them, and her piece was free of the sillier stories often retailed about the eastern part of Germany, but I feel I must take her up on one point. This is where she talks about "the people living under the government self-styled as the German Democratic Republic."

It is, of course, a fact that the German Democratic Republic is "self-styled": it took this name when it constituted itself as a state in October 1949. But the fact would only be worthy of attention if other states were not "self-styled"; if they were allotted names by some supra-national body, the United Nations for instance.

As far as I can recall, such states as the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also chose their names themselves. If Miss Flora Lewis can think of any independent states today which were baptised by somebody else, perhaps she will let me know.

I would not have devoted these paragraphs to this apparently very unimportant subject if it had not formed part of a pattern: the pattern of a constant propaganda theme which tries to claim that the German Federal Republic, West Germany, is in fact the only real German state, and that the German Democratic Republic does not exist. The GDR, which even its enemies admit to be a going concern, is referred to as "East Zone" or "Soviet Zone". This is an interesting case of modern witchcraft. I understand that in some countries it used to be the practice to give children only unpleasant names like "Old Shoe" and "Dish-rag"; this is supposed to keep away the demons, who might have been moved to take possession of a child named "Apple-blossom" or even "Sweetie-pie". The practice of the propaganda sorcerers in Bonn is the exact opposite: by calling the GDR a "zone", and adding the words "east" or "Soviet", both of which constitute hostile spells in the western magicians' handbook, they hope that it will get dispirited and go away.

An associated sleight of hand practiced in West Germany is to refer to the Government of the GDR as "Pankow", and people who really should know better (like the London "New Statesman") sometimes fall for this trick. Pankow is a suburb in the north-east of Berlin, and no single part of the government of the GDR happens to be located there. It is exactly as though one referred to the British Government as the "Hackney" Government: let me hasten to say I have nothing against Hackney, but it occupies about the same place on a map of London as Pankow does on a map of Berlin. This is simply a cheap and childish trick played by the Bonn propagandists. The Government of the GDR actually has all its main offices in the central section of Berlin, the old government quarter, and if to avoid confusion people don't want to call it the "Berlin Government", then "East Berlin Government" seems quite a convenient short way of putting it.

Flesh Creeper

The next time the millionaire press tries to make your flesh creep with stories about "thousands of persecuted refugees fleeing from East Germany", recall this paragraph from the "Guardian", Manchester, of March 18th 1960:

"The proportion of professional and managerial men and women migrating overseas from Britain rose sharply in 1958. Although the total of emigrants during the year (142,000) showed a marked drop from the figures for the previous year (230,000), the number of professional and managerial emigrants rose by 3 per cent."

If I wanted to be nasty, I suppose I could slap a headline on this story stating "Terrorised Refugees Flee Macmillan's Britain", but that of course would be not exactly true. All I want to do is to draw your attention to the fact that Democratic Germany is not the only place in the world which people decide to leave because they believe that the apples on the other side of the wall are sweeter.

Real Problem

And I do not want to belittle what a serious problem is posed by the "flight from the Republic" as the movement of people from Democratic Germany to West Germany is called here. In previous issues I have dealt at length with some of the reasons which lead people to quit the GDR: opposition to a planned economy, an idea that they can better themselves in the "golden West", and a dozen other reasons. I won't waste space going into this subject all over again, though I should perhaps recall that although nearly all migrants claim to have left because of some vague "political oppression", well under five percent of them are classified by West German officials as "political refugees", and they interpret this term very broadly.

As I said, it is a problem, but the encouraging thing is that the flow is steadily but surely changing its direction. A few years ago, when West Germany was already in an economic boom, while Democratic Germany was still pulling itself up by its bootstraps, the flow of inner-German wanderers was nearly all from East to West. Today the situation has changed radically; the "New York Times", which cannot be suspected of pro-socialist tendencies, reported on March 20th: "There is no firmly reliable statistic, but there are indications that the eastward movement may have reached 50 percent of the reduced western flow."

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